Export of Defence Products

1584. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to promote the export of defence products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are doing export of any defence products currently;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the export of the defence products will be able to helpful in controlling the annual defence budget; and

(f) if so, the details of the planning and execution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps taken to promote defence .exports include:—

1. Streamlining of procedures in export of Defence stores.
2. Greater involvement of Indian missions abroad in publicising our production capabilities.
3. Participation in specialised defence exhibitions abroad.
4. Interaction with the visiting foreign defence delegations.
5. Publication of a catalogue of Indian Defence Products.
6. Maintenance of permanent defence pavilion at New Delhi, and
7. Organisation of specialised defence exhibition in India.

(c) and (d) Various defence production units have been executing export orders which include:—

(a) Aeronautical stores.

(b) Ammunition items.

(c) Communication equipment.

(d) small ships.

(e) Components and sub-systems etc.

The value of defence exports achieved by the Ordnance Factories and public sector undertakings during 1996-97 has been of the order of Rs. 143 crores (provisional).

(e) and (f) Export of defence products by Defence Production Units constitutes an additionality to the turnover of the production units, resulting in higher efficiency and lover costs and thus benefit the Indian Armed Forces.

Use of Defence Airfields by Civil aircraft

1585. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the defence airfields are being used for civil operations making it difficult for operations by IAF;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite the complaint by the Indian Air Force to the DGCA most of the private carriers have not been cleaning the runways on time even on several occasions failed to clear disabled aircrats from the runway; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures are being proposed/taken to clear the airstrips for norma! operations by IAF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) Use of IAF airfields by civil operators (with certain restrictions) has not created any difficulty for the Air Force operations.

(b) and (c) No case till now of delay in clearing runway on time or clearing a disabled aircraft from the runway, has been brought to the notice of government.